

PRESS RELEASE

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SCHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

An association was formed last month to assist graduating SCHS students who wish to go to college. At a recent reunion of the Class of 1963, those attending took the first steps toward the formation of the St. Clair High School Alumni Association, as a Board of Directors was elected, and over \$1,000 donated that evening.

The process was set in motion by Gary (1963) and Jim (1960) Marchbank, as they discussed how individual classes have at various times over the years formed one-time memorial scholarship funds. Jim had expressed the thought that it would be nice if classes could band together to create a larger fund that would continue to exist beyond one or two years, and help more students. Gary passed that thought along by email during preparation for the Class of 1963 reunion. Several classmates discussed Marchbank's idea at length, through emails, and the thought of having a permanent scholarship fund resonated with everyone. By early August, the vision of an alumni association whose primary purpose is assistance in vocational and college education had been formed.

DeWayne Landwehr, of Anderson, Indiana, began making inquiries on the internet and through SCHS staff, to determine if an alumni association existed. According to Landwehr, "We couldn't believe that such an association had never before been formed. We thought perhaps there had been one that had since become inactive, but we could not find any official record of one, and the principal, Kathie Enyart, confirmed that no such group was active. We wanted this effort to be permanent, so we decided to incorporate. Fred Becker, now in Leslie, Missouri, took care of all the state filings. Landwehr started on the federal paperwork. They wanted to have all the preliminary work done before the reunion. All the state filings were completed, and they received their Federal Employee Identification Number in about three weeks.

Becker said, "It was phenomenal. We covered a lot of ground in three weeks, and none of us met face to face. It was all done over the internet. I enlisted the help of my attorney, Dan Buescher, and he volunteered to take care of the filings pro bono. I am so proud of our class. There was not a dissenting vote, and on short notice, they came up with about \$1,000 the evening we met."

"We still have a lot of details to work out, but we don't want to go too far before we fill up the board. We left three seats open, and are hoping to fill those with interested people from other classes", Landwehr said. "I have met with Ms Enyart, and expressed our desire to work closely with the school administration. I look for this to be a very rewarding experience for everyone who chooses to be involved. Also, we will be meeting with the school board next week to inform them of our actions thus far, and to let them know we want to work with them in building the vision and reality of this effort."

Anyone interested in becoming a board member can contact Gary Marchbank by email at wazoo369@yahoo.com. Donations are tax deductible (check with your accountant or attorney). Checks should be made out to SCHS Alumni Association and mailed to SCHS Alumni Association, 7778 Liberty School Road, Leslie, MO, 63056.

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